



Volume 41

Issue 3

Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

March 2022



photo by Rick Williams

From the Town Hall

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

Age Friendly Community

On February 1st Meg Ryan BSN RN, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and Nour Elhattaby Strauch of LifePath gave a presentation on initiatives that they are working on in Franklin and North Quabbin Counties related to 'Age-Friendly Communities Movement'. Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice, Council on Aging members Sue Tomlinson and BJ Roche, myself and Administrative Assistant Ashley Brown attended the meeting to see whether Rowe might benefit from joining the effort.

Following the meeting, I presented the Board of Selectmen with the information as those of us attending the meeting felt that it could be beneficial to Rowe Seniors. The Board of Selectmen agreed that we need to promote efforts to benefit seniors as much as possible and agreed to sign and submit the initial letter of consideration to join the efforts of the Age-Friendly Project that most area communities have joined.

You can participate and assist the effort, if you are over 50 or are a caregiver for an older person, please take a few minutes to complete the Age-Friendly Community Survey found in the 'Latest News' section of the town website and complete it online or pick up a hard copy of the survey at Town Hall in the entryway. It is the first step in the process, which is to identify the needs within our community.

Policy Update

A compilation of policies that the Board of Selectmen voted to establish has been created

and is on the town website. Entitled, "Town Policies" they are on the Board of Selectmen page under 'Board of Selectmen Files'.

It contains policies created that are related to anything other than personnel policies which are contained in the Personnel Policy Manual.

Budget Season

The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen are meeting each Tuesday night with Boards, Committees and Departments about their Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget submission requests. The topic most discussed is the wages and salaries in Rowe. The Board of Selectmen worked throughout last year to develop a Wage & Salary Chart to help in the hiring process as well as to determine whether employees of the town are being fairly compensated compared to other similar towns in the region. A pay scale grade was assigned to each position through review of the job descriptions. Then, a "step" within the pay grade is assigned to an individual employee considering years of service, education, experience and other factors. In some cases, it was noted that some employees were underpaid, while others were where they need to be. Obviously, much more discussion about this topic will be occurring in the next few weeks.

We are waiting for the FY23 School budget now to see where the budget stands. A complicating factor is that the Finance Committee is short a member so when a member is out or needs to recuse from a particular topic due to Conflicts of Interest, deliberations cannot occur. It would be really great to have a full 5-member committee.

Lastly, thank you all for your efforts to stay safe by wearing your mask to Town Hall and other buildings. The Covid-19 virus numbers are dropping this week and there are signs of encouragement that, perhaps we can resume community events in the very near future. It has, without question, been an extremely challenging time.

Town Clerk

Submitted by Paul McLatchy III

Office hours are on Friday evenings from 6:00-8:00, or by appointment. I try to check into the office multiple nights a week, so if you call or email me, I will try to get back to you within a day or so.

Second mailings of the street listing will soon be going out. Those who do not return this second mailing will be inactivated as voters and will be required to take several steps to re-activate. Therefore, it is easiest for you to simply return the street list before it gets to that point.

2021 Dog licenses expire March 30th. Fixed dogs are \$5 and intact dogs are \$10. A valid rabies vaccination must be provided if not already on file. Information on a possible rabies clinic was not ready by the submission date- this information will be posted on the website when it is available and a robo-call will be made.

Nomination papers are available. The following positions are open, and a list of people who have taken out papers as of February 23rd. Unless noted, all terms are for three years.

Board of Assessors

Herbert Butzke*+

Board of Health

Margaret Rice*+

Board of Selectmen

Cemetery Commission

Finance Committee – 3 Years

Finance Committee – 2 Years

Wayne Zavotka*

Finance Committee – 1 Year

Daniel Pallotta (Appointed to Position)

Library Trustees

Lauren Werner

Moderator

Robert Clancy*

Park Commission

Planning Board – 5 Years

Chuck Sokol*

School Committee

Mary Paige*

*Incumbent

+Has submitted papers with sufficient signatures, will appear on the ballot unless not certified by the Board of Registrars.



Planning Board Public Hearing Notice

-Note, a mailer will be sent to all property owners closer to the date of the hearing. This is for informational purposes only-

The Rowe Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:00 to review proposed changes to the town's zoning bylaws. After the hearing, proposals "may" be brought to the annual town meeting where they must be approved by 2/3 voters to be changed. There are four proposed changes:

Amend the use table to allow two-family/semi-detached dwellings by right in the Residential-Agricultural Zone, and multi-family dwellings by special permit in the Residential-Agricultural Zone. Currently two-family/semi-detached dwellings are by special permit, and multi-family dwellings are prohibited. No changes are proposed at this time to dwellings in the industrial zone.

Deletes Section 10 of the Zoning Bylaws, which defines "family" and prohibits cohabitation by more than four unrelated people.

Amends Section 18, which details the special permit application process. This change would require an applicant to submit a special permit application to the town clerk and starts the timeline for making a decision when filed with the clerk, who will transmit it to the Planning Board. Currently the application is not considered accepted until the Planning Board meets.

Amends Section 20, which requires mailing of public hearing notice to all property owners, to read that notices are to be mailed in accordance with MGL C. 40A, S. 11.

At this time, the hearing will most likely be held both in-person at town hall and remotely via Zoom. Please read the public hearing notice when you receive it for the details, which will also be on the town website.

Submitted by Paul McLatchy III

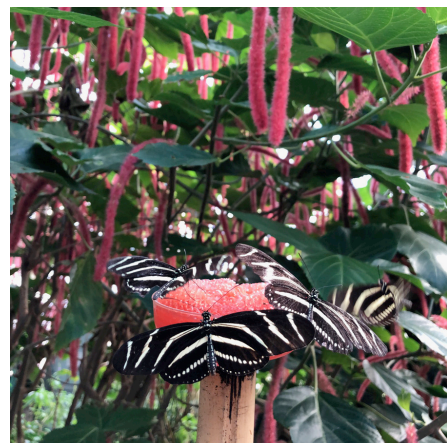
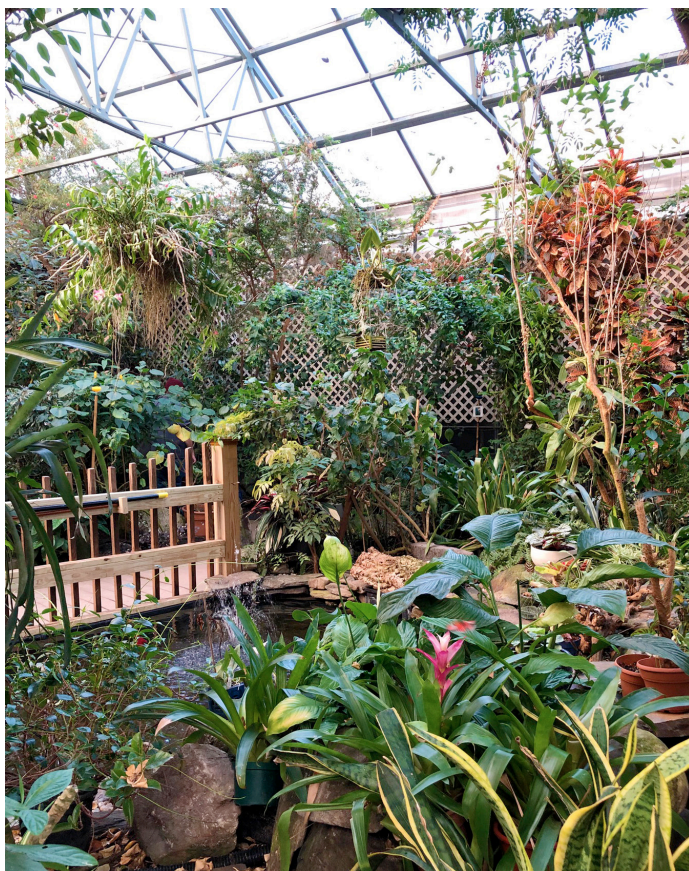


photo by Nan Williams

A Wintry Respite

by Sue Williams

Sometimes towards the end of winter you need a little break from the cold! If so, head to Magic Wings - the butterfly conservatory in South Deerfield right on route 5. With warm temps, big flowering plants, and so many butterflies it's a lovely respite while we wait for spring.



photos by Sue Williams



Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

NEW HOURS!!

Tuesday 10-5

Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 3-7

Saturday 10-3

Have you been in to see Donna's picks? Every couple weeks Donna picks a few books to order multiple copies of books she has researched and found to be highly recommended. Stop in for a quick read.

Your Rowe Library card gives you access to CWMARs overdrive (Libby App) with e-books, e-audios, videos, and e-magazines. Your card gives you access to 6 titles through Hoopla each month as well. If you don't have a library card we are happy to get one for you during any of our open house and CWMARS now offers to those that do not have a library card and do not wish to

get a town card, you can now get a CWMARS E-Card. Here is how: <https://catalog.cwmars.org/eg/opac/ecard/form>

Got a new Kindle, Nook, Ipad or other E-reader device for the holidays? We are happy to help you get set up reading on it with any of our apps. Call to set up a time to sit down with us.

Stop in and see us soon!

Masks are still required inside the library building.

Programs:

Adults: Mason Jar Lanterns-Thursday March 11th at 5:30 pm we will be making lanterns with several different size jars and materials to attach to the jars for a fun homemade useful decoration. Call for your spot at this event.

Book Chat: *This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger. Next Meeting will be Thursday March 24th at 3:30 pm

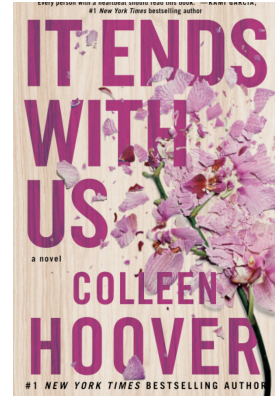
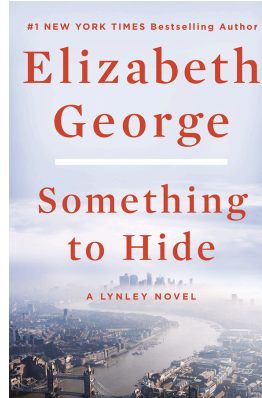
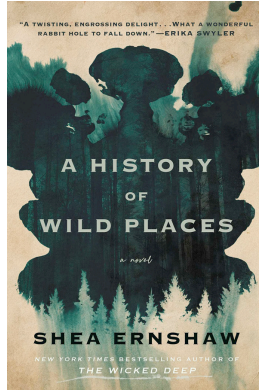
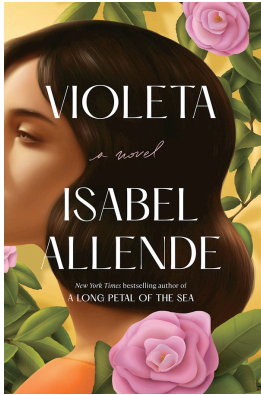
Kids: SLIME- On Wednesday March 16th at 3:30 pm. Make some slime to take home..

Weekly the library will also be providing open ended crafting materials for adults and kids to use. The month of March will feature collage materials for your enjoyment and creativity.

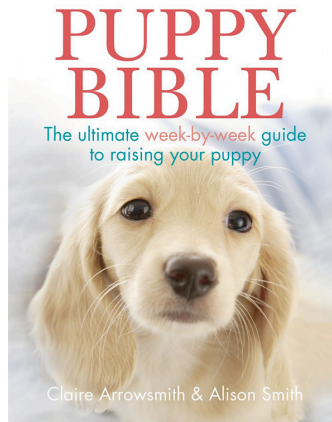
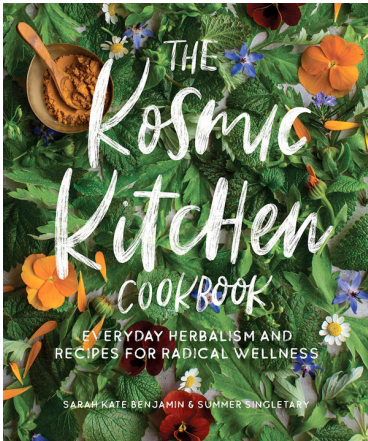
Contact the library if you would like to be put on our email notifications for programs Rowelibrary@gmail.com

Some New Items This Month

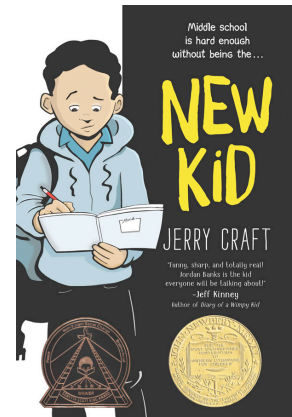
Adult Fiction:



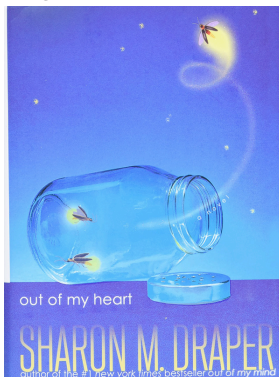
Nonfiction:



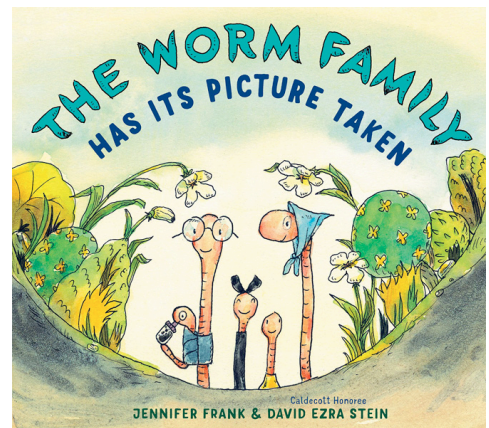
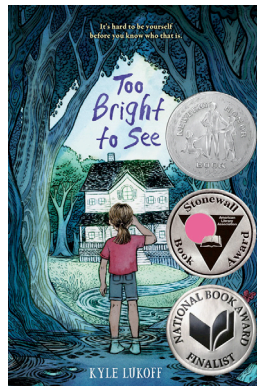
Graphic Novel:



Young Adult:



Kids:



ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



I was looking back at what I submitted last year and the year before for the March Goal Post, and so much has changed, but many things have not. What has changed is that two years ago, the column talked about what a good time we had skiing, how we were looking forward to the upcoming Spaghetti Supper, and the 5/6 class trip to Nature's Classroom. What has also changed is all of the adaptations we have made at the school and to the school day, due to the ongoing pandemic. These include the masks, the (thankfully no-longer-needed) distancing, the new drop-off and pick-up, and breakfast and lunch plans, as well as delivering more outdoor-based education. It also included bringing our Preschool friends back to the school, and reorganizing our early childhood classrooms,

What hasn't changed is that we had snow days each of the last two Februarys as well as this February. What also hasn't changed is the commitment of all of the staff to doing whatever needs to be done to offer every student the best education possible, as well as the cooperation between school staff and families to keep us all learning in-person.

As the weather warms up this spring, we will increase the amount of time students spend outdoors, working on ways to combine traditional education with outdoor experiences for an engaging and productive learning experience.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call me at 413-512-5200. You can also email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. And please visit our website, www.roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

-Submitted by Bill Knittle



The Parson's Devil

Submitted by Sue Alix Williams



“THE PARSON’S DEVIL” was the nickname by which noted Chicopee lawyer George Munroe Stearns, 1831-94, was known in Rowe during his boyhood. In Clifton Johnson’s biography of Stearns, the son of Unitarian minister William L. Stearns (who served this pastorate from 1833 to 1849), we find some interesting quotes by the man himself.

By the time it took two fingers to represent my age I was known throughout the village as the Parson’s Devil. My father himself told me many times he had no doubt I’d end my days on the gallows. But then, that used to be a common remark in most families for a father to make to a boy who was inclined to be wild. It was not so much a prophecy as it was a warning. It got to be so that whatever muss there was in the place it was settled at once as a sure thing that I had a hand in the affair.

When I was thirteen (1844) I took the contract to carry the mail once a week from Rowe to the neighboring mountain town of Florida. I would start off on my mail route some time in the forenoon, mounted on the rawboned, bobtailed stage horse, make the long, zigzagging, up and down hill journey of over twenty miles and get back in the late afternoon. Often there were no letters either to take or bring back, for cheap postage and universal letter writing came much later, but I always had a bundle of newspapers to deliver. These were the Gazettes and Democrats, both published in the county town, Greenfield. I left them all along the way sticking them into fence posts, or holes in stone walls, or little boxes fastened up to receive where byroads branched off.

I received thirty-five cents a trip, and a good deal of that money I spent for candy to give to a girl who had red hair and wore a red flannel gown. I recall the dances in the farm kitchens with the red-headed girl for my partner. She emitted no odor of musk, no Parisian perfume, nothing but the wholesome and pungent fragrance bestowed by frying doughnuts.

(taken from The History of Rowe, 2006) Photograph from website findagrave.com)

**The Rowe Historical Society presents Rowe History Hikes:
Spring Ephemerals and Hoosac Soapstone Quarry**

When: April 30th, 9 am

Where: Meet at Zoar Picnic Area

Rowe History Hikes will be a series of informal hikes to explore the natural and human history of Rowe. Our first hike will be to the site of the Hoosac Soapstone Quarry (1872-1880) and talc quarry (early 1900s) on the old Tunnel Rd. We will explore the mining activity in the area, cellar holes and an unknown mill from the 1790s. The area is also a conservation site for a wide array of spring ephemerals including trillium, leeks, and ginger. Starting at the bottom of Tunnel Rd, the hike will be approximately 2 miles with mild elevation rise and the option of more moderate hiking.

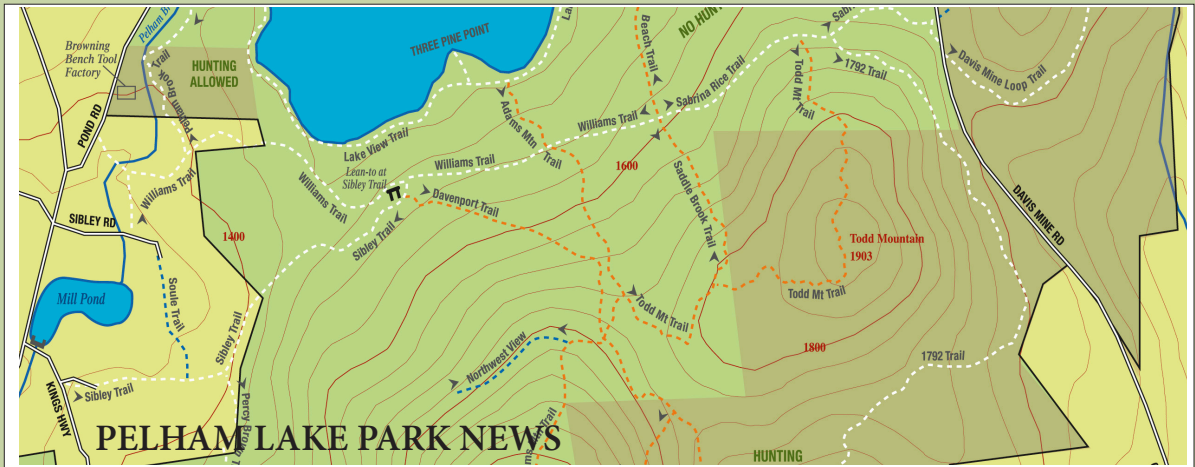
For any questions, contact Dana (413) 834-7664 or dmwilliams237@gmail.com



The third graders worked on a graphing/ research project over the last six weeks keeping track of what birds and other animals they saw in the outdoor classroom. Each student chose a bird that they wanted to research and created an art project with the information that they had observed and gathered in their research.



-Submitted by Claudine Poplawski



American Red Cross Lifeguard Course

The Greenfield YMCA is offering two American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Courses in the area. If you are 15 or older and would like to be certified as a lifeguard for a potential summer job then check out the Greenfield YMCA website for more information and to register.

The course is 25 hours long and in-person (you should be a strong swimmer). The Spring Session 1 Course will be Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm starting 3/6/22 through 4/3/22. An April Intensive Course will be held Monday through Friday 4/18/22- 4/22/22. MWF will be from 2-7pm and T Th will be from 1-6pm.

Open Space and Recreation Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Open Space and Recreation Committee seeks volunteers to help us put together a plan to preserve Rowe's farmland, forests, scenic views, and recreational uses, while also protecting air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat. The Open Space and Recreation Plan, due in 2023, will make Rowe eligible for state-wide grants to support these goals. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to gain experience in town planning, conservation, or environmental planning. Volunteers do not need to live in Rowe. Join us!

ROWE COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS

Submitted by Susan Tomlinson

The Rowe Health Department and the Rowe Council on Aging are taking part in an Age-Friendly Community Survey from the Franklin County Regional Governments, Life Path, and AARP to help determine the needs and wants of the citizens of Rowe over the age of 50. Yes, 50 years and older....the purpose of the survey is to assess what is available in each community in Franklin County and the North Quabbin areas to help aging people to stay in their homes. Services such as transportation, ability to get to medical appointments, shopping, if your home is easy to get around, are there parks with easy access, do we have a Senior Center are all within this survey. The survey is anonymous, but offers survey completers a chance to enter their names for a gift card. The easiest way to complete the survey is to go to the Rowe website - under Latest News, you will see the link for the survey. If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, there are hard paper copies of the survey at Town Hall in the entry. You can then leave the completed survey in the drop box. If you have no computer access and are unable to get to the Town Hall, please call Susan at 339-5325. Either I or another volunteer will contact you and either visit with the survey or talk you through it with you dictating your answers to us. We will then turn it into Age-Friendly Community Survey committee for you.

Please do NOT hesitate. The deadline is MARCH 11 for all the surveys to be completed and turned in. Rowe is one of the last communities to be part of this survey. Earlier communities who have taken part are already working on solutions to the problems, wants, needs of the aging population to stay at home. Remember, this survey is for those Rowe residents who are 50 and over including anyone who has the responsibility of caring or providing services to a citizen who is 50 or older. Thank you in advance for completing the survey.

One more thing, the Rowe Council on Aging is still in need of two people to serve on the "board." While we are rather less active with the covid variants still around and without a senior center, we can work on other issues together or individually to rebuild the Rowe COA. Have a great month of March!



The Rowe Center

WORKSHOPS • RETREATS • SUMMER CAMPS

The Rowe Center is pleased to offer residents and those who work for the town the opportunity to experience one of our weekend workshops, either online or on-site, once a year free of charge. For more information about programs. or to register, please go to our website rowe.center/programs/ or call our registrar at 339-4954.

March and April

Online:

Third Saturday of the Month:

Couples' Date Night: Come Play with Your
 Lover FREE
 Thomas and Sara Stout

Last Tuesday of the Month:

A Gathering of Warriors During Global Crisis
 FREE
 Charlie Pacello and Chuck Blocher

Every Other Monday:

Gathering of Grandparents FREE
 Jane Isay

February 28-March 25

Unmute Yourself: Daily Writing, Meditation,
 Community and Teachings
 Ann Randolph

March 6

Raise Your Voice! Raise Your Spirit: An Online
 Evening of Celebration and Connection
 Claude Stein

April 1-29

Tending the Five Gates of Grief: A Five-Part
 Online Experience
 Francis Weller

On-Site Weekend Programs:

March 4-6

Living Well: A Retreat for People in Their 20's
 and 30's

Chelsea Rose-Pulitzer and Robin Cornell

March 25-27

Gay Men's Winter Gathering: For Men Who
 Love Men

April 29-May 1

Talking with Birds: Tuning Into Our Wild
 Neighbors

Dan Gardoqui

It's MUD SEASON!

Tell us about the condition of your dirt/gravel road!

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has partnered with Rep. Natalie Blais to better understand the conditions of our communities' unpaved roads, and the effort and cost that goes into their maintenance and repair every year. This is especially important in the context of more frequent, intense storms like this past summer that damage these more vulnerable roads.

To help with this effort, the FRCOG has created an interactive online map in which anyone can add points to show the location of known issue spots on your unpaved roads: <https://tinyurl.com/3ydv2d6>, or scan the QR code below with your smartphone.



Mark the map with locations that have reoccurring maintenance issues or that are in need of repair.

You can also **upload pictures** and **add details**.

Your input will help Rep. Blais make her case in Boston about the needed funding for Western Mass unpaved roads.



Use your smartphone camera and view this QR code to automatically open the interactive map!



For more information on this project, or to discuss other issues related to dirt/gravel roads, please contact Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation & Land Use Planner at mrhodes@frcog.org or (413)774-3167 ext. 132.



photo by Lori Silva



photo by Meredith Sokol



Sugaring the old-fashioned way, circa 1910.

Charlie Canady, the photographer, took most of the old pictures in the History of Rowe and which are preserved on glass plates.

Rowe Community Church

Submitted by Ros Mullette

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| March | 6 | Worship Service & Observance of The Lord's Supper |
| | 13 | Worship & Praise Service (Breakfast at 9 a.m.) |
| | 20 | Worship & Praise Service (1st day of spring) |
| | 27 | Worship & Praise Service |

Will meet the third Friday of the month for a time of fellowship & study at a time & place to be announced.

March Birthdays

- 1 - Kathleen Atwood
- 4 - Samara Buchanan
- 5 - Barbara Long
- 7 - Jody Brown
- 8 - Daniel Burke
- 13 - Ron Gordon
- 14 - Heidi Kuhl
- 15 - Kathy Sprague
- 16 - Brianne Cousineau
- 16 - Cynthia Stetson
- 17 - Jillian York
- 18 - Dana Williams
- 19 - Grace Poplawski
- 20 - Bill Travis
- 23 - Kristah Boutwell-Swope
- 23 - David Scrivens
- 26 - Mollie Dery
- 26 - Mary Paige
- 27 - Mary Reardon
- 27 - Nathan Paige
- 28 - Marilyn Wilson
- 29 - Lauren Werner
- 29 - Susan Zavotka
- 30 - Fred Lowell
- 31 - Ian Boyd

If you would like to add or remove a name from this list, please contact me at:
GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Town Services

Town Main Line at 413-339-5520

| <u>Position/Dept.</u> | <u>Ext #</u> | <u>Email Address</u> | <u>Hours</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| <u>Admin Assistant</u> | <u>101</u> | | |
| <u>Assessors Office</u> | <u>104</u> | <u>assessor@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>Wed 8-1 or by Appt</u> |
| <u>Board of Health</u> | <u>105</u> | <u>boh@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>Mon 8-1 Clerk</u> |
| <u>DPW</u> | <u>111</u> | <u>dwphighway@rowe-ma.gov (339-5588)</u> | |
| <u>Executive Secretary</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>townadmin@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>Mon-Thurs 9:30-5:00</u> |
| <u>Fire Dept</u> | <u>112</u> | <u>firechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-4001)</u> | |
| <u>Fitness Room</u> | <u>149</u> | | |
| <u>Library</u> | <u>114</u> | <u>rowelibrary@gmail.com</u> | <u>Tues: 10-5 Wed: 12-8 Thu: 3-7 Sat: 10-3</u> |
| <u>Park</u> | <u>110</u> | <u>parkmanager@rowe-ma.gov (339-8554)</u> | |
| <u>Police</u> | <u>113</u> | <u>policechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-8340)</u> | |
| <u>Tax Collector</u> | <u>106</u> | <u>collector@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>Mon-Wed: 9:00-5:00</u> |
| <u>Town Accountant</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>accountant@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>By Appt.</u> |
| <u>Town Clerk</u> | <u>103</u> | <u>townclerk@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>Fri: 6-8:00pm or by Appt.</u> |
| <u>Town Nurse</u> | <u>107</u> | <u>nurse@rowe-ma.gov</u> | |
| <u>Transfer Station</u> | | | <u>Sat: 8- 2:00pm, Sun: 8- Noon, Wed: 7 -10am & 4 - 7pm</u> |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | <u>108</u> | <u>treasurer@rowe-ma.gov</u> | <u>By Appt.</u> |
| <u>School</u> | <u>(413) 512-5100</u> | | |

Town Hall is open for normal business hours 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

MASKS REQUIRED TO BE WORN IN ALL INDOOR TOWN PUBLIC SPACES - Per Board of Health as of 09/08/21

Please contact Executive Secretary at: (413)339-5520 ext. 100 for appointments whenever possible.

Seasonal resident MUST notify the Executive Secretary of any change in address.

The Rowe Goal Post
P.O. Box 462
Rowe, Massachusetts 01367

The Rowe Goal Post

Available on the Town's website (<https://rowe-ma.gov/p/64/Rowe-Goal-Post>)
the first of every month with paper copies sent out by mail the first week

Published by the Board of Selectmen 'in the interest of information
exchange between all departments and all Rowe citizens.'

All submissions for the next issue are due by the 25th.
Any articles received after this time cannot be guaranteed that
they will appear in the next issue.

Please e-mail all items to:
GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Please send only high resolution images (do not resize).

If you have a question about your subscription or want to make a change to the mailing list,
please contact the Town Administrator at:
(413) 339-5520 x100
admin@rowe-ma.gov

Seasonal residents MUST notify the Administrator of any change in address.